

**From:** Anne Berube/DC/USEPA/US  
**Sent:** 1/13/2012 8:10:01 AM  
**To:** Melissa Gibbons  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Pavillion News article from BNA

It must be, though it doesn't seem as earth shattering as I remember. I will forward you an email with the latest from Dimock.

-----Melissa Gibbons/DC/USEPA/US wrote: -----

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To: Anne Berube/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
From: Melissa Gibbons/DC/USEPA/US  
Date: 01/13/2012 08:00AM  
Subject: Fw: Pavillion News article from BNA  
=====

Hi, Anne. Is this the article that you suggested I circulate?  
Thanks,  
Melissa Gibbons, Attorney-Advisor  
USEPA/OECA/OSRE/RSD  
Phone: 202-564-4276  
Fax: 202-501-0269

----- Forwarded by Melissa Gibbons/DC/USEPA/US on 01/13/2012 07:58 AM -----

From: Melissa Gibbons/DC/USEPA/US  
To: Anne Berube/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Patricia Mott/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Rebekah Reynolds/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Karin Leff/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Benjamin Lammie/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 01/13/2012 07:58 AM  
Subject: Pavillion News article from BNA

[http://news.bna.com/delIn/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=24262501&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=499629000&searchid=16312626&doctypeid=1&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=DELNWB&pg=0](http://news.bna.com/delIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=24262501&vname=dennotallissues&wsn=499629000&searchid=16312626&doctypeid=1&type=date&mode=doc&split=0&scm=DELNWB&pg=0)

Drilling  
Energy Company Calls for 'Highest Scrutiny'  
Of EPA Report on Fracking in Wyoming

By Tripp Baltz

DENVER—The company that owns a natural gas field in Pavillion, Wyo., where groundwater pollution has been linked to hydraulic fracturing has urged the Environmental Protection Agency to review its report on the site with the “highest level of integrity and scrutiny.”

In a Jan. 10 letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, Encana Corp., of Calgary, Alberta, said the conclusions drawn in the Dec. 8 draft report, combined with the concern over the safety of hydraulic fracturing, should make the report a “highly influential scientific assessment.”

EPA's report stated that contamination of the aquifer in Pavillion is “likely associated with gas production practices,

including hydraulic fracturing” (237 DEN A-15, 12/9/11).

The draft report is undergoing a 45-day public comment period that ends Jan. 27. Meanwhile, EPA is conducting an external peer review of the report.

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, involves the high-pressure injection of water, sand, and chemicals into the ground to break up rock formations and release natural gas and oil. The industry maintains that fracking is safe, while environmental advocates and landowners have expressed concerns about its potential to harm drinking water supplies.

#### Report Called 'Precedent-Setting.'

EPA's draft report is “novel, controversial, or precedent-setting, or has significant interagency interest,” thus meriting the “highest level” of attention under EPA's Peer Review Handbook, the company said.

Rich Mylott, spokesman for EPA Region 8, told Bloomberg BNA Jan. 11 the agency is reviewing Encana's letter.

EPA also should carefully consider conflicts of interest and affiliations of the peer review panel members, Encana said. The panel will need to consider all concerns raised by interested parties as to the scientific and technical underpinnings of the report, it said.

Encana and others are preparing technical comments to the report. The company asked that EPA provide the comments to the peer review panel.

#### Various Disciplines Sought

“We remain very concerned by the short list of primary disciplines that the EPA identified in its Peer Review Plan,” the company said, adding that the review should cover disciplines of petroleum engineering; hydrogeology; geophysics; geochemistry; analytical chemistry; microbiology; cement bonding and logging; sample collection quality assurance and quality control; monitoring well design, construction, and sampling; and water well design, construction, and maintenance, in addition to hydraulic fracturing.

The letter to EPA followed a Jan. 6 letter from Encana to the EPA Office of Research and Development urging suspension of the comment period for the Pavillion report until the agency's plans “are better explained” and until it can disseminate additional critical data on the site.

“The EPA is moving too quickly with its pre-dissemination public comment and review process,” the Jan. 6 letter said.

#### Governor's Input

Encana's requests followed remarks recently by Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R), who called on EPA Dec. 21 to adopt a cooperative approach with the state to yield “a scientific, credible inquiry.”

“I hope we can work together to move the work surrounding Pavillion water to a more cooperative, logical and scientific approach,” Mead said in a letter to EPA.

“I would like to see efforts based on a cooperative, fully science-based analysis that truly serves the interests of Wyoming's people, particularly citizens in the Pavillion area, Wyoming's resources and industries, and the public at large,”

Mead added.

For More Information

Encana's letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson is available at <http://op.bna.com/env.nsf/r?Open=smiy-8qesbl>.

EPA's draft report on Pavillion is available at <http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/wy/pavillion/>.

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